



MRS. GOODMAN'S
FIRST STEP IN HISTORY,
DEDICATED
TO
THE YOUNG LADIES
OF
CANADA.

MONTREAL.

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ADDRESSED
TO
THE YOUNG LADIES
OF
CANADA.

My dear Young Friends,

IN compliance with the wishes of many of my Pupils, I have at length made extracts of as much of the History of England, as I think necessary for a young lady to commit to memory. Should this bagatelle be found useful, (my health permitting,) I shall have much pleasure in presenting to you, my Roman and Grecian History, Class-lessons, together with My-

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thology and Astronomy. You, who are now become mothers, will pardon me for recommending that, when a child can read with fluency the Spelling-book lessons, all promiscuous reading should be prohibited, and the attention confined to the History of England alone: a few pages of Goldsmith's History should be carefully read, and these extracts repeated every day, until the age of ten or twelve years; when the Pupil may be advanced into that of Rome. The task of teachers is at all times most arduous; we have not only to cultivate the mind, improve the temper, and communicate gracefulness, but we have to excite a *taste*: and different children sometimes require opposite methods to produce the same effects.

History is to them, at first, a dry uninteresting study; they learn it because it is a part of their duty. You

probably may remember when "the reign of Elizabeth" was the greatest punishment that could be inflicted. Permit me to call to your recollection, the method I adopted to remove this distaste. One evening I invited you to bring your sewing and hear me read "Kenilworth:" the next day at the hour of recreation, I had the satisfaction of seeing, that several of you had voluntarily relinquished the pleasures of the flower-garden, and play-room, for an attentive perusal of the "formidable reign of Elizabeth;" and you afterwards regretted that we had not a lengthened history of that period. Whence arose this extraordinary and suddenly excited taste? I reply, from the magical power of the author of "Waverley:" and it is but justice to add, that I am infinitely indebted to that excellent author, for the success of my historical classes. But it is not

my intention to fatigue you with a dissertation on Education, I merely wish to apologize for my little offering, and to assure you, that I shall ever feel a lively interest in your present and future happiness. That I retain a large portion of your regard, is a subject for reflection, which must ever be most truly gratifying to my feelings.

I have the pleasure to be,

Your affectionately attached

Friend,

M. GOODMAN.

Montreal, 12th April, 1827.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

Q. WHAT was the ancient state of England?

A. The ancient state of England, with respect to its constitution, was originally a monarchy, under the primitive Britons; afterwards a province in subjection to the Romans; then an heptarchial government under the Saxons; then a kingdom subordinate to the Danes; next after them, under the power and dominion of the Normans; but at present a monarchy again.

Q. What was the Island at first called?

A. The whole Island was at first called Albion, or Alpion, because the term Alp, signifies a hill; it was also called Olbion, a Greek word for happy, because the ancient Britons lived, for a long while, in

ease and affluence, until the ambition of Julius Cæsar interrupted their flourishing state of peace and tranquillity; it was afterwards named *Brithtania*, from *Brith*, signifying painted in the British language, and the Greek term *Tania*, or country, which the Romans softened into *Britania*.

Q. Was Britain much known at that time?

A. Britain was but very little known to the rest of the world, before the time of the Romans. The coasts opposite Gaul, or France, were frequented by merchants who traded thither for such commodities as the natives were able to produce; and who, after a time, possessed themselves of all the maritime places, where they had at first been permitted to reside.—Finding the country fertile, and commodiously situated for trade, they settled upon the sea-side, and introduced the practice of agriculture; but the inland inhabitants, who considered themselves the lawful possessors of the soil, avoided all correspondence with men, whom they viewed as intruders upon their property.

Q. Were the inland inhabitants very numerous?

A. The inland inhabitants are represented as extremely numerous; living in cottages, thatched with straw, and feeding large herds of cattle. They lived chiefly upon milk, and flesh procured by the chase: what clothes they wore to cover any part of their bodies, were usually the skins of beasts; but the arms and legs were left naked, and usually painted blue; their hair, which was long, flowed down upon their backs and shoulders, while their beards were kept close shaven, except upon the upper lip, where it was suffered to grow. The dress of savage nations is every where nearly alike, being calculated rather to inspire terror, than to excite respect.

Q. What was the government of England at that time?

A. As to their government, it consisted of several small principalities, under different leaders; and this seems to have been the earliest mode of dominion, with which mankind were acquainted, and may have been deduced from the natural privileges of paternal authority. Upon great and imminent dangers, a commander in chief was chosen, by consent in a general

assembly; and to him was committed the conduct of the general interest in peace or war.

Q. Of what did their army consist?

A. Their forces consisted chiefly of foot; yet they could bring a considerable number of horse into the field upon great occasions. They likewise used chariots in battle, which, with short scythes fastened to the axle-trees, inflicted terrible wounds; spreading horror and devastation wherever they drove. Nor were the warriors who conducted them unemployed; these darted their javelins against the enemy, ran along the beam, leaped on the ground, resumed their seats, stopped, or turned their horses at full speed, and sometimes cunningly retreated, to throw the enemy into confusion.

Q. What was the religion of the Britons?

A. The religion of the Britons was one of the most considerable parts of their government; and the Druids, who were the guardians of it, possessed great authority among them. No species of superstition was ever more terrible than theirs; besides the severe penalties they were per-

mitted to inflict in this world, they inculcated the doctrine of the eternal transmigration of souls; and thus extended their authority as far as the fears of their votaries. They sacrificed human victims, which they burned in large wicker idols, made so capacious as to contain a multitude of persons at once, who were thus consumed together; to these rites they added the austerity of their manners and the simplicity of their lives; they lived in woods, caves, and hollow trees; their food was acorns and berries, and their drink was water; by these arts they were not only respected, but almost adored, by the people, whose manners took a tincture from the discipline of their teachers: their lives were simple, but they were marked with cruelty and fierceness; their courage was great, but neither dignified by mercy nor perseverance.

Q. Did the Britons long remain in this rude state?

A. The Britons had long remained in this rude, but independent state, when Cæsar having victoriously over-run Gaul, and willing still farther to extend his fame, determined upon the conquest of a coun-

try that seemed to promise an easy triumph. Accordingly he set sail for Britain about midnight, and the next morning arrived on the coast near Dover, where he saw the rocks and cliffs covered with armed men to oppose his landing.

Q. Who commanded the British forces?

A. The Britons had chosen Cassibelannus for their commander in chief, but the petty Princes under his command, either from suspicion or jealousy, threw off their allegiance; some of them fled with their forces into the internal parts of the kingdom, others submitted to Cæsar. At length Cassibelannus himself, thus weakened, resolved upon making what terms he was able, while he yet had power to keep the field. The conditions offered by Cæsar, and accepted by him, were that he should send to the continent double the number of hostages at first demanded, and that he should acknowledge subjection to the Romans. Cæsar, however, was obliged to return once more to compel the Britons to complete their stipulated treaty.

Q. Did the Romans long keep possession of the country?

A. After the Romans had been in possession of this country nearly four hundred years, they left it to its ancient inhabitants again; but as they were at that time most shamefully degenerated from their native courage and intrepidity, they were soon after invaded by the Scots and Picts, and being greatly intimidated at the thoughts of their approach, they applied to the Saxons for their assistance, and thereby brought on their total destruction, and the division of their country into the following heptarchy, viz: the kingdom of Kent, the kingdoms of the East, West, and South Saxons, the kingdom of Northumberland, the kingdom of the East Angles, and the kingdom of the Mercians.

Q. When did Britain become one great State?

A. In process of time, all these petty settlements were united in one great State, and assuming the name of Angleland, or England, was successively governed by Egbert the Great; Ethelwolf; Ethelbald; Ethelbert; Etheldred the First; Alfred the Great; Edward the Elder; Athelstan; Edmund the First; Edred; Edwy or Edwin; Edgar the Pacific; Edward the Se-

cond; Etheldred the Second; Edmund, surnamed Ironside; Canute the Great; Harold the First, surnamed Harefoot; Hardicanute; Edward the Confessor; and Harold the son of Godwin Earl of Kent. The Pretensions of the latter, however, were opposed by William, Duke of Normandy, who claimed the English Crown as the lawful bequest of the Confessor.— In the year 1066, he made a descent on the coast of Sussex, with a numerous army, and soon after came to an engagement with Harold, who was defeated and slain at Hastings.

Q. Who was King of England after the battle of Hastings?

A. William the First, surnamed the Conqueror. He ascended the throne in 1066, and died in 1087.

Q. What were the most remarkable events in the reign of William the First?

A. The English required to put out their fire and candle at eight in the evening, on the ringing of the Curfew bell, and obliged to deliver up their arms. Surnames first used in England, and common swearing first introduced.

Q. Who succeeded William the First?

A. William the Second, surnamed Rufus. He ascended the throne in 1087, and was accidentally killed by an arrow in 1100.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of William the Second?

A. Westminster Hall built by William Rufus, 270 feet long and 74 feet broad. An inundation of the sea, which overflowed the lands of Godwin, Earl of Kent; to this day called Goodwin Sands.

Q. Who succeeded William the Second?

A. Henry the First, surnamed Beauclerc. He ascended the throne in 1100, and died in 1135.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Henry the First?

A. Henry the First restored to the English the liberty of using fire and candle at night. The order of Knights Templars founded.

Q. Who succeeded Henry the First?

A. Stephen, surnamed Blois. He ascended the throne in 1135, and died in 1154.

Q. What was remarkable in this reign?

A. 1117 Castles built by royal permission.

Q. Who succeeded Stephen?

A. Henry the Second. He ascended the throne in 1154, and died in 1189.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Henry the Second?

A. Becket murdered in the Cathedral of Canterbury by four Knights. The kingdom first divided into six Circuits; and three Judges appointed to each.

Q. Who succeeded Henry the Second?

A. Richard the First, surnamed Cœur-de-Lion. Ascended the throne in 1189, and was killed by an arrow at the siege of Chalus in 1199.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Richard the First?

A. At this time lived Robin Hood and Little John. The former was betrayed at a nunnery at Berkley; being sick, he desired to be bled, and was bled to death. Three Lions passant first borne on the royal shield of England.

Q. Who succeeded Richard the First?

A. John, surnamed Sans-Terre. Ascended the throne in 1199, and died in 1216.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of John?

A. The assize of bread first appointed.
Sterling money first coined.

Q. Who succeeded John?

A. Henry the Third of Winchester.
Ascended the throne in 1216, and died in 1272.

Q. What were the remarkable events
in the reign of Henry the Third?

A. Three Impostors, (one of whom
pretended to be Jesus Christ,) were sen-
tenced to perpetual imprisonment, and to
be fed on bread and water. Wales wholly
subdued and governed by the English
laws. Magna Charta solemnly confirm-
ed. Fine linen first made in England.

Q. Who succeeded Henry the Third?

A. Edward the First, surnamed Long
Shanks. Ascended the throne in 1272,
and died in 1307.

Q. What were the remarkable events
in the reign of Edward the First?

A. Spectacles invented by a Monk.
The magnetic needle first brought into
use.

Q. Who succeeded Edward the First?

A. Edward the Second of Carnarvon.
Ascended the throne in 1307, and was
murdered in Berkley Castle in 1327.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Edward the Second?

A. Crockery-ware invented. On account of a great famine, the Parliament limited the price of provisions; and whoever did not comply with this regulation, forfeited the provisions to the King. The order of Knights Templars abolished by Pope Clement the First.

Q. Who succeeded Edward the Second?

A. Edward the Third. Ascended the throne in 1327, and died in 1377.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Edward the Third.

A. Gunpowder invented by a monk. Gold first coined in England.

Q. Who succeeded Edward the Third?

A. Richard the Second. Ascended the throne in 1377, and was murdered in Pontefract Castle in 1399.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Richard the Second?

A. Greenland discovered by a Venetian. Playing cards invented for the amusement of the King of France.

Q. Who succeeded Richard the Second?

A. Henry the Fourth, surnamed Bolingbroke. Ascended the throne in 1399, and died in 1413.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Henry the Fourth?

A. Geoffrey Chaucer, the Poet, died. The Collars of S. S. first worn in England.

Q. Who succeeded Henry the Fourth?

A. Henry the Fifth of Monmouth.— Ascended the throne in 1413, and died in 1422.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Henry the Fifth?

A. Vines and sugar canes first planted in Madeira. The two Courts of England and France held at Paris.

Q. Who succeeded Henry the Fifth?

A. Henry the Sixth. Ascended the throne in 1422, and died in the Tower in 1461.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Henry the Sixth?

A. Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orleans, burned for a witch at Roan. Engraving and etching on copper invented.

Q. Who succeeded Henry the Sixth?

A. Edward the Fourth. Assumed the

crown ten years before the death of Henry the Sixth, and died in 1483.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Edward the Fourth?

A. A tradesman executed for saying he would make his son heir to the Crown; alluding to the sign of his house. Printing first brought into England.

Q. Who succeeded Edward the Fourth?

A. Edward the Fifth. He was murdered in the Tower after a reign of two months.

Q. Who succeeded Edward the Fifth?

A. Richard the Third. Ascended the throne in 1483, and was killed in the battle of Bosworthfield in 1485.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Richard the Third?

A. Post-horses and stages first established. An inundation of the river Severn, which lasted ten days; and men, women, and children, were carried away in their beds by the violence of it.

Q. Who succeeded Richard the Third?

A. Henry the Seventh. Ascended the throne in 1485, and died in 1509.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Henry the Seventh?

A. America and the West Indies discovered by Columbus. The Cape of Good Hope also discovered. Shillings first coined in England.

Q. Who succeeded Henry the Seventh?

A. Henry the Eighth. Ascended the throne in 1509, and died in 1547.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Henry the Eighth?

A. Gardening then first introduced into England. The reformation in Religion begun by Martin Luther. Muskets first invented; mortars and cannon cast in iron, the first that were ever made in England.

Q. Who succeeded Henry the Eighth?

A. Edward the Sixth. Ascended the throne in 1547, and died in 1553.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Edward the Sixth?

A. Crowns and half-crowns first coined. There was such a plentiful year, that a barrel of beer, with the tap, sold for six pence, and four great loaves for one penny.

Q. Who succeeded Edward the Sixth?

A. Mary. She ascended the throne in 1553, and died in 1558.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Mary?

A. Coaches first used in England. Two little towns near Nottingham, beat down by thunder: and hail-stones fell which measured fifteen inches in circumference.

Q. Who succeeded Mary?

A. Elizabeth. She ascended the throne in 1558, and died in 1603.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Elizabeth?

A. Knives first made in England. The art of making paper, introduced. Telescopes, and the art of weaving stockings, invented. Watches first brought into England from Germany.

Q. Who succeeded Elizabeth?

A. James the First. Ascended the throne in 1603, and died in 1625.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of James the First?

A. A plot was discovered of a design to blow up the Parliament-House. Thirty-six barrels of gunpowder being put in a cellar under the Lords' house (which had been hired for that purpose,) and covered over with coals, billets, and faggots.

Guy Faukes who was to have set fire to

the train, was discovered in a cloak and boots, with a dark lantern, tinder box, and matches in his pocket. Himself and his accomplices were executed. Baronets first created in England. The circulation of the blood confirmed by Doctor Harvey. Copper money first used in England.

Q. Who succeeded James the First?

A. Charles the First. Ascended the throne in 1625, and was beheaded in 1648.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Charles the First?

A. A bright star appeared and shone all day.—Thomas Parr was presented to the King, being 152 years of age, and in perfect health; he died in London, Nov. 15th, 1635: he had lived in ten reigns.

Q. Who succeeded Charles the First?

A. Oliver Cromwell, or the Commonwealth. He began his usurpation in 1648, and died in 1658.

Q. Who succeeded Oliver Cromwell?

A. Charles the Second. He was restored to the throne in 1660, and died in 1685.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Charles the Second.

A. Tea first used in England. In this

reign died Henry Jenkins of Yorkshire, aged 170. Blood attempted to steal the Crown out of the Tower, but was apprehended.

Q. Who succeeded Charles the Second?

A. James the Second. Ascended the throne in 1685, and abdicated in 1689.

Q. What was remarkable in the reign of James the Second.

A. Six hundred persons were barbarously executed under Judge Jefferies; and the steeples, town gates and roads, were stuck with the heads and limbs of the sufferers.

Q. Who succeeded James the Second?

A. William the Third, and Mary: were proclaimed in 1689, and died in 1702.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of William and Mary.

A. Bayonets first used by the French. The bank of England established, and the first public lottery drawn. Stamp duties instituted. Prussia erected into a kingdom.

Q. Who succeeded William and Mary?

A. Anne. She ascended the throne in 1702, and died in 1714.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of Anne?

A. The kingdoms of England and Scotland united. The first British Parliament met.

Q. Who succeeded Anne?

A. George the First; who ascended the throne in 1714, and died in 1727.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of George the First?

A. Innoculation first tried on criminals with success. Russia, formerly a dukedom, established an empire.

Q. Who succeeded George the First?

A. George the Second; who ascended the throne in 1727, and died in 1760.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of George the Second?

A. The command of the expedition against Quebec, the capital of French Canada, was given to General Wolfe, a young officer of true military genius.—Wolfe's courage and perseverance surmounted incredible difficulties; he gained the heights of Abraham, near Quebec, where he fought and defeated the French army; but he was himself killed. General Amherst, who was the first English

general on command in America, conducted another expedition, and Canada shortly became subject to Great-Britain.—Lisbon destroyed by an earthquake. One hundred and twenty three Englishmen perished in the black-hole at Calcutta.

Q. Who succeeded George the Second?

A. George the Third; who ascended the throne in 1760, and died in 1820.

Q. What were the remarkable events in the reign of George the Third?

A. The Constitution of Canada settled. The King and Queen of France beheaded, and war commenced between France and Great-Britain. Union with Ireland carried into effect. Bonaparte crowned Emperor of the French. Bonaparte defeated and Louis XVIII restored to the throne of France.

Q. Who succeeded George the Third?

A. George the Fourth, his present Majesty, (*Dei gratiâ.*) He ascended the throne in 1820.

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